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In the discussion of the subject by the convention Dr. Phares, of Mississippi, offered a resolution to petition Congress to fully equip the Department for the more effective investigation of the fungous diseases of plants. A resolution was subsequently offered to have the seeds of the department subjected to the critical inspection of an expert on their quality, purity and vitality, and Major Alvord, of New York, deemed it best to have the two resolutions united, which was done. We think, this, however, an unfortunate disposition of the matter, but yet hope something may be accomplished.

What is now needed, as it appears to us, is a well equipped laboratory with a corps of trained specialists, who shall also be permitted to study the diseases in those parts of the country which offer the most favorable conditions for their investigation in the field. To make the work entirely successful it should constitute a separate division or bureau of the Department on an equal footing with that of botany, entomology, animal diseases, etc., and might very appropriately be called the *bureau of plant diseases*. The co-operation of the agricultural colleges, experiment stations and private investigators could be secured, and great scientific and economic service be rendered the country.—EDS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA has established a botanic garden.

DR. KLEIN'S work on micro-organisms has been translated into French.

A WORK of 300 pages has just been published in Berlin on J. J. Rousseau as a botanist.

PROF. V. M. SPALDING has been detained from going abroad to study by the illness of his wife.

PROF. J. M. COULTER is engaged during the summer on geodetic work in the southern part of the state, near New Albany.

DR. O. J. OLSEN has received a grant of \$250 from the Norwegian government with which to continue his studies on native edible mushrooms.

THE VACANT PAGE of the last number was due to a misunderstanding of the printers. The GAZETTE can ill afford to leave blank any of its much needed space.

A SMUT on cultivated violets, *Urocystis Viola*, attacking the leaves and flower stems, has made its appearance in France, as we learn from the *Revue Mycologique*, and has proved very destructive.

PROF. CHARLES R. BARNES, of Purdue University, has been granted a year's leave of absence, and will spend the time at the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Mass., in the prosecution of some special researches.

DR. WARMING, of the University of Stockholm, has received a call as professor of botany in the University and director of the botanic gardens of Copenhagen, Denmark, and will begin his labors on November 1.

WE TAKE PLEASURE in directing the attention of our readers to our advertising columns, which have never been better filled with what is needed in all departments of botanical research, and especially that of bacteria.

WE HAVE HAD the pleasure of examining slides prepared at Marpmann's Microscopical Institute, for which Dr. Theodore Hinrichs, of Baltimore, is agent, and find them thoroughly satisfactory, although not so elegantly mounted as those of some American preparers.

THE JUNE NUMBER of *Drugs and Medicines of N. A.* completes the account of Hydrastis, and has excellent illustrations of *Trollius laxus*, *Coptis trifolia*, *occidentalis* and *asplenifolia*. A map showing the distribution of *C. trifolia* and the illustrations of its histology are specially commendable.

A STATUE to Linnaeus was recently placed, with much ceremony, in the Humlegarden park at Stockholm, Sweden. It represents him at sixty, meditating, holding the *Systema Naturae* and a bunch of flowers. He is surrounded by allegorical female figures representing botany, zoology, medicine and mineralogy.

PROF. W. W. BAILEY, of Brown University, is to deliver four lectures at Narragansett Pier on botanical subjects. The topics announced are "Laurels and kindred shrubs," "Ferns and their allies," "Insect relations to plants," "The South county flora." The first is to be given July 21 and the last August 11.

PROF. WM. TRELEASE, of the University of Wisconsin, will, in September, take charge of the new school of botany, founded by Mr. Shaw, in connection with Washington University at St. Louis. A laboratory is to be equipped at once, and we understand an assistant is also to be appointed. It is probable that the laboratory will, before long, be removed to the splendid gardens which have made Mr. Shaw and the city of St. Louis so well known. These magnificent gardens, together with the extensive arboretum and greenhouses, will offer almost unrivalled facilities for students when a laboratory, library and herbarium are placed in their midst. We do not doubt that Prof. Trelease will make the school as worthy as its founder's intentions are commendable.

AS THE TIME approaches for the meeting of the American Association at Ann Arbor, Mich., the promise of a full attendance of botanists grows better. In answer to a circular every western botanist who usually attends the meetings has signified his intention of being present, as well as many others, and also quite a number from the eastern States. A thoroughly interesting meeting is already assured.

Among the subjects that will be brought up at this meeting will be that of plant diseases. Papers upon any phase of the subject will be especially welcome.

All botanists are expected to register immediately after registering for the Association, and receive the badge of the Club, which entitles them to its privileges.

An excursion is to be given some afternoon by carriage, to members of the

Botanical Club only, to one of the most interesting collecting grounds of the region, giving an opportunity to see the country and to botanize throughout the trip. The long excursion for Saturday has not been definitely decided upon as we go to press, but whether it be to the Saginaw valley or along the Detroit river an opportunity will be afforded the botanists to make a detour for examining the vegetation and collecting. The excursion after adjournment to Mackinac island and Sault Ste. Marie will give a rare opportunity to see a new flora and enjoy a delightful trip.

The meetings of the Club will be held during the week, beginning on Thursday (and not on Tuesday, the 25th, as erroneously announced in the Permanent Secretary's circular). The time and place will be given in the daily programme, as well as all other announcements for the Club.

It will doubtless not be superfluous to say a little regarding the organization and purpose of the Club. It had its inception at the Minneapolis meeting in a desire to secure a larger attendance of botanists at the meetings of the Association and to promote more ready and cordial intercourse between those who did attend. It was expected that accomplishing this much would lead the way to the consideration of questions and measures of scientific and practical importance. The Club is not encumbered with constitution, by-laws or formalities. Only members of the Association who express an interest in botany are eligible to membership, and the only other requirement is registration. The meetings are held at such times as will not interfere with those of the Association, usually at 9 to 10 a. m., on Thursday, Friday, and the succeeding Monday and Tuesday.

It is earnestly suggested that only botanical papers of considerable weight and importance be submitted to the general Association, and that all others be read before the Club, which will give them quite as good a hearing and the certainty of a more earnest discussion.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Neue Untersuchungen über den Befruchtungsvorgang bei den Phanerogamen als Grundlage für eine Theorie der Zeugung. Von Dr. Eduard Strasburger. 8 vo. pp. xii, 176. 2 plates. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1884.

The improvement in the processes of staining has made it necessary to re-examine some of the more recondite points in the process of fertilization of the Phanerogams, and Dr. Strasburger has gone over the whole ground thoroughly for the purpose of following the nuclei of the pollen grain thence to the oosphere. This has led him to the revision of the theory of fertilization.

The work before us is divided into five parts, the first treating of the structure and development of pollen grains and tubes; the second of the modes of penetration of the tubes into the stigma and the style; the third of the fertilization in the Coniferæ; the fourth of fertilization in the Angiospermæ; the last and largest part is devoted to a statement of a theory of fertilization. The following are some of the salient points of his work:

I. Doubt is cast on the generally accepted homology of the vegetative cell or cell-complex in the pollen grain of the Coniferæ and Cycadææ with a rudi-